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6-12-04
PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q67625

SMILANSKY, Zeev, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/003,347

Group Art Unit: 2623

Confirmation No.: 6579

Examiner: Vikkram Bali

Filed: December 06, 2001

For: A PIXEL BASED MACHINE FOR PATTERNED WAFERS

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

MAIL STOP RCE

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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JUN 07 2004

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 28, 2003, within the shortened statutory period extended by three months by the accompanying petition and fee, please consider the following remarks.

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 26-29 are all the claims currently pending in the application. No claims are amended, as Applicants firmly believe that the pixel signature limitation that appears in all of the claims is not met by the prior art.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4 and 26-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alumot et al (5,699,447) in view of the newly cited patent to Tsai et al (4,845,558). For at least the following reasons, this rejection is traversed.

The Invention

The present invention is directed to a pixel based inspection, rather than a pattern based inspection of semiconductor wafers (specification at page 7, lines 1-3). The basis for this